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Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/69, commended the Mediterranean countries for their efforts in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity.

2. The General Assembly also encouraged the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the possible resort by terrorists to weapons of mass destruction, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation and which jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society.

3. Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at its seventy-third session on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request and on the basis of information received from Member States.

4. In this connection, a note verbale dated 30 January 2018 was sent to all Member States, requesting their views on the subject. To date, replies from the Governments of Algeria, Greece, Lebanon and Peru have been received and are reproduced in section II below. A reply from the European Union has been received and is reproduced in section III below. Any replies received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs (www.un.org/disarmament) in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Algeria

[Original: French]
[15 May 2018]

The problem of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region must be seen in a global context, one that takes account of the human, political, security and economic interests and concerns of the countries on both shores of the Mediterranean, by promoting initiatives designed to make the region a zone of lasting peace, stability and prosperity.

Algeria has an active Mediterranean policy, based on the principles of friendship and cooperation, good neighbourliness and mutual respect. It calls for the promotion and implementation of these principles.

For Algeria, Mediterranean security and development are closely linked to peace, security and development in Africa. Algeria stresses the importance of integrating the Mediterranean dimension in the consideration of the future of the security system in Europe, with a view to safeguarding the interests of all concerned. It is on this basis that Algeria takes an active role in several initiatives and forums for dialogue established in the region:

(a) The Algerian initiative to combat terrorism in the Sahel is designed to confront the current worrisome situation, whose effects on security and stability in Africa are considerable. It is designed to strengthen the strategic, operational and military framework, launch socioeconomic development programmes, and build the

administrative, technical and operational capacities of the security personnel of several African countries;

(b) The Western Mediterranean Forum (5+5 Dialogue) has fostered the adoption of cooperation measures in several areas, the consolidation of collective peace and security in the Mediterranean, and engagement with the issues affecting peace and security in the region;

(c) The regional office of the European Union Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative for the North African and Sahel region aims to promote cooperation among the countries of the region, on the one hand, and of the European Union, on the other, to reduce the risks arising from the illicit use of sensitive materials;

(d) The African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism makes important contributions with regard to combating terrorism and related topics. It is an outgrowth of the desire of African States to coordinate their efforts to implement concrete, urgent and collective counter-terrorism measures with those of the international community;

(e) The African Police Cooperation Organization (AFRIPOL) is a tool of regional coordination whose purpose is to strengthen peace and security in Africa by building the capacities of the police forces of African countries in the areas of scientific policing, criminal threat assessment, combating cybercrime and combating the illicit traffic in arms and drugs, as well as consolidating the police forces deployed in connection with peacekeeping operations;

(f) There have been significant developments in the country's cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In 2014, an individual partnership and cooperation programme was concluded with a view to strengthening the existing frameworks of cooperation between Algeria and Europe;

(g) The informal high-level strategic dialogue between Algeria and the European Union on regional security and counter-terrorism seeks to explore opportunities to develop practical cooperation in order to address the challenges posed by terrorism and deradicalization with a view to, inter alia, implementing partnership priorities concluded with the European Union. This forum reflects the country's policy of providing assistance and sharing its experience of combating terrorism and violent extremism with its partners.

Greece

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

A. Regional cooperation

Greece undertook targeted initiatives, launching the Rhodes Conference for Security and Stability in September 2016, the second of which was held on 22 and 23 May 2017 and the third of which was to be held on 21 and 22 June 2018, the Athens Conference on Religious and Cultural Pluralism and Peaceful Coexistence in the Middle East in October 2015, the second of which was held in November 2017, and the Ancient Civilizations Forum in April 2017. Greece also established trilateral schemes of cooperation among countries of the Mediterranean region, notably Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. All the above emanate from our firm belief in proposing a positive and manifold agenda of cooperation, focusing on

developing synergies and joint activities in the fields of culture, trade, education and research.

The "spirit of Rhodes" provides an appropriate response to multiple challenges facing the wider Eastern Mediterranean region, thus enhancing regional security and development, as well as mutual trust and understanding among the participants. Greece has twice convened (in 2015 and 2017), as mentioned above, the Athens Conference on Religious and Cultural Pluralism and Peaceful Coexistence in the Middle East, recognizing the urgency of communicating the message of cooperation and peace and of working on concrete alternative actions aimed at fighting radicalization that leads to violence. These conferences dealt with the urgent humanitarian crisis currently faced by religious communities and cultural entities in the region, caused by ongoing conflicts, tensions and extremism. The Centre for Religious Pluralism in the Middle East was subsequently established.

B. Security in the Euro-Mediterranean region

The Union for the Mediterranean is a fundamental platform in the Mediterranean neighbourhood. Considering the many political, security and economic challenges faced by the region, the road map, as adopted by the Union members in January 2017, signals their commitment to enhance cooperation in order to find common responses to those challenges. The road map (which includes enhancing political dialogue, ensuring the contribution of Union activities to regional stability and human development, strengthening regional integration and consolidating the capacity of the Union for action) is the testimony of Union members' will to support the work of this platform and invest in the region's growth, stability and security. "Soft" security issues — youth, education, women's empowerment, tourism and intercultural and interfaith dialogue — have been taken on board by the Union members. Reinforcing human capital, a key for stability and security in the region, through ensuring opportunities for all has also become one of its top priorities.

C. Non-proliferation and disarmament

If all States in the region of the Middle East became parties to the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, this would be a significant confidence- and security-building measure, as Greece firmly believes. Greece supports the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference. Through dialogue, stakeholders can reach a common understanding on convening a conference (on a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East), attended by all States of the Middle East on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by them, as decided at the 2010 Review Conference.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[15 May 2018]

Lebanon complies with the resolutions of the United Nations and is cooperating to combat terrorism, transnational crime, the illegal transport of weapons and the illegal production, consumption and trafficking of drugs around the world and, in particular, in the Mediterranean region.

Lebanon stresses the need for action to curb illegal collective migration caused by the events unfolding in the region. Such migration has negative repercussions from every point of view, particularly security.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

Cooperation is the natural and necessary way to develop relations among States on the Mediterranean sea. The ongoing conflicts in the area have consistently hampered integration and effective cooperation among Mediterranean countries.

Peruvian foreign policy is based on the five strategic objectives and 31 State policies enshrined in the National Accord, particularly the sixth policy. The latter reaffirms the Government's commitment to pursuing a foreign policy conducive to peace, democracy and development by ensuring that Peru is suitably integrated in the world and international markets. Such action should respect the principles and norms of international law. It should take place in the context of inter-institutional dialogue encompassing political organizations and civil society.

General Assembly resolution 72/69 is therefore consistent with the sixth policy of the National Accord, which establishes seven core objectives that are linked to the main concerns of our foreign policy. These include promoting a climate of peace and security at the global, hemispheric, regional and subregional levels with a view to creating an environment that is stable and builds confidence. Such an environment is necessary in order to facilitate the development of our countries and the eradication of poverty. Particular emphasis will therefore be placed on reducing the build-up of arms and promoting disarmament in Latin America.

III. Reply received from the European Union

[Original: English]
[14 May 2018]

The strengthening of security and internal regional cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as in the broad Middle East, remains high on the European agenda.

Cooperation was reinforced through relevant regional organizations, especially through the Union for the Mediterranean, whose strategic importance as a key platform for dialogue and as a mechanism to strengthen regional and social cohesion in the Mediterranean was also reiterated in the European Union Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy. A number of high-level meetings were conducted in pursuit of the European Union's goal of strong engagement with Mediterranean partners with a view to an increasingly effective partnership within the context of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy. The European Neighbourhood Policy review and the 2017 joint communication on a strategic approach to resilience in the European Union's external action proposed concrete measures to reinforce partners' resilience against global challenges and threats, such as supporting the development and growth of the poorest areas, countering the terrorist threat and violent extremism, as well as supporting security sector reform and border management in the context of the rule of law. The Common Foreign and Security Policy missions and operations in the region also play an important role in achieving this goal.

Where possible, the European Union cooperated with Southern Mediterranean and Middle East countries on political, economic, security and civil society tracks. The European Union stepped up its engagement in favour of countries that are implementing political and economic reforms, such as Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. This translated into enhanced political dialogue, significant European Union financial assistance, agreement on priorities for partnerships and progress in key policy areas. Cooperation with the Southern partners on tackling terrorism and preventing radicalization leading to violent extremism has been strengthened.

Security and counter-terrorism dialogues and high-level visits have been conducted in the region, specifically in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Turkey, leading to concrete results, and an informal high-level dialogue with Algeria has been launched. Counter-terrorism and security experts have been deployed in European Union delegations in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, with the direct support of member States, to contribute to a better situational awareness of local context and to define targeted, evidence-based cooperation programmes. They also act as a reference point for matters related to counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism for local and international counterparts, for example in donor coordination platforms or at Global Counterterrorism Forum meetings.

On 6 March, the European Union and Tunisia signed an administrative arrangement to boost cooperation in civil protection and disaster risk management. This is the second time that an administrative arrangement has been signed with a country from the southern neighbourhood of the European Union, following the agreement with Algeria in December 2016.

The European Union is supporting Libya's political transition to a stable and functioning country, including the United Nations-led mediation efforts, through an integrated approach. The European Union underlines the importance of inclusiveness of the political process and Libyan ownership, notably through the participation of all legitimate Libyan stakeholders. The European Union is also supporting Libyan authorities through its Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations, the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean and the European Union Integrated Border Management Assistance Mission in Libya.

The European Union maintained its position as the region's largest donor and foreign aid provider.

In 2017, the migratory situation became more stable but remained challenging, in particular with regard to the Eastern Mediterranean route. Migration continues to be a top priority for the European Union and its partners in the region. The decrease in irregular arrivals to Europe has been confirmed throughout 2017 and the first months of 2018, while work is ongoing to save lives, tackle the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, protect Europe's external borders and further strengthen cooperation with international partners in the Mediterranean region and beyond. The principles of solidarity, partnership and shared responsibility from the Valetta summit in Malta in November 2015 will continue to guide the response of the European Union and African partners.

The implementation of the European Union-Turkey statement continues to deliver results in reducing irregular and dangerous crossings and in saving lives in the Aegean Sea. The European Union remains seized of the matter, given the ongoing and increased flows from Turkey. The number of people being helped to leave Libya has increased significantly since the joint African Union-European Union-United Nations Task Force was established.

Joint efforts will continue to be made to evacuate migrants in detention and put an end to the dire conditions in which they are held, as well as to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks.

The European Union emergency trust fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa continues to play a critical role in the European Union's work. In total, the fund has now approved 147 programmes across its three windows, the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and North Africa, for a total of more than €2.5 billion, with contracts signed for just over €1.5 billion. The External Investment Plan and its European Fund for Sustainable Development have also generated strong interest from partner financial institutions. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency is currently supporting national border guards with 1,350 deployed experts along all migratory routes.

The European Union continues to address the root causes of migration, such as instability, through its Common Security and Defence Policy missions in the Sahel region, and it combats traffickers' networks and implements the United Nations arms embargo through the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean.

The European Union has been an active participant in the Geneva-based International Syria Support Group task forces and actively supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), notably in relation to humanitarian access, cessation of hostilities leading to a ceasefire and supporting the United Nations-led political process. The European Union supported the United Nations-led efforts and played its part in supporting the intra-Syria talks, as well as in supporting regional countries that are hosting millions of Syrian refugees. The European Union hosted the second Brussels conference on supporting the future of Syria and the region, co-chaired with the United Nations, with representatives of more than 70 countries, in April 2018. In addition to the humanitarian pledges, it focused on reiterating its support to the United Nations-led intra-Syrian political talks. A first tracking report of pledges from the first Brussels conference, published in October 2017, showed that 88 per cent of grants pledged for 2017 had been committed by donors at that time. Since 2013, the European Union has contributed approximately €23 million to the dismantling of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

The European Union has joined the League of Arab States, the United Nations and the African Union to form the Libya Quartet, with the objective of contributing to the efforts of finding a solution to the crisis.

As participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union member States foster cooperation and dialogue on wider security issues through the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation programme with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Priority areas in this forum include countering radicalization and terrorism, border security, migration management and non-discrimination.

Political dialogue has been further intensified with regional partners, such as the League of Arab States. Under the European Union-League of Arab States Strategic Dialogue, launched in November 2015, two additional working groups, one on fighting transnational organized crime and the other on international migration, have been added to those already existing on counter-terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, crisis management, early warning and crisis response and humanitarian assistance. So far, those working groups have focused on policy dialogues and exchanges of best practices. The European Union-League of Arab States ministerial meeting, held in Cairo in December 2016, confirmed the joint work programme, which puts an emphasis on activities related to crisis management, civil society, human rights, diplomacy, electoral observation and increased participation of women

in economic development. The European Union also seeks to work with the Gulf States in addressing challenges in the region, such as those in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

The European Union's cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has gained new impetus with the successful co-organization of a high-level event on anti-Muslim discrimination and hatred, in New York in January 2016, and the first European Union-Organization of Islamic Cooperation meeting of senior officials, held in Brussels in February 2017.

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Seventy-third session
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General and complete disarmament

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/48 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-third session.

2. Pursuant to that request, a note verbale was sent to Member States on 5 February 2018 inviting them to provide information on the subject. The replies received are set out in section II below. Any views received after 15 May 2018 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs[1] in the language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

II. Replies received from Governments

Austria

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Current challenges to disarmament and non-proliferation, such as a complicated international security environment and rapid advancements in science and technology related to weapons, require a cooperative, multilateral approach. Austria considers the strengthening of multilateralism one of its foreign policy principles. Support for effective multilateralism is also one of the guiding principles of the European Union Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, published in 2016, and the European Union Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, adopted in 2003. Through these instruments, the European Union strongly supports the expanding membership, universalization, full implementation and enforcement of multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control treaties and regimes.

Efforts by Austria on multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation have implied both political support for the multilateral instruments and financial support for relevant international agencies, with the general objective of enhancing the effectiveness and credibility of the multilateral regime in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. In that vein, Austria has acceded to most multilateral treaties in this domain and participates actively in efforts to universalize them and further improve their implementation. For instance, in 2017, Austria assumed the presidency of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Austria continues to promote multilateralism through further engagement, including through support for the establishment of new legally binding instruments.

Austria is working to overcome the current lack of effectiveness of the United Nations disarmament machinery, in particular that of the Conference on Disarmament, and the resulting absence of substantive multilateral disarmament negotiations. Strategies for revitalizing existing disarmament forums and rebuilding habits of cooperation are required to overcome the prevailing global and bilateral trust deficit and its negative impact on disarmament efforts.

In particular, in the nuclear domain, multilateral forums are indispensable to achieving a nuclear weapon-free world. Austria strongly supports the existing international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, with the Treaty on

[1] www.un.org/disarmament/.

the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as its cornerstone. Austria continues to underline the importance of advocating for the preservation of existing nuclear-related agreements, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and various other bilateral and multilateral arms control agreements. Austria favours the further development of this regime, for instance, through negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

In this respect, Austria actively supports and has recently acceded to the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This instrument is important first of all as a contribution to the implementation of the disarmament obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It is equally important as the first tangible result of multilateral nuclear disarmament since the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in 1996.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[9 April 2018]

The multilateral decision-making process of the United Nations, in strict observance of the Charter and the principles of international law, is the only viable mechanism for preventing the international system from becoming a mechanism for the imposition and legitimization of unilateral measures contrary to the multipolar, just and equitable world order we need.

Seeking solutions through multilateral negotiations and acknowledging the need to reach collective agreements are the most effective means of safeguarding international peace and security.

Multilateral negotiations that are open to all States on an equal footing guarantee and facilitate universality, as well as the commitment of States to the agreements, measures and instruments related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

International challenges today reinforce the need for multilateralism. Existing disputes within the international system and the threats that may arise in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation must be resolved peacefully and through negotiations.

The impasse in the negotiations within the framework of the multilateral disarmament machinery, which has persisted for several years owing to the lack of political will on the part of certain countries, makes it all the more necessary to intensify multilateral efforts.

Unilateral measures and bilateral or regional agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation are no substitute for the scope and meaning of agreements reached through multilateral negotiations. Multilateralism must be the core principle underpinning all negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, of which Cuba is a member, has reiterated the absolute validity of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as its determination to promote multilateralism as a core principle underpinning negotiations on those matters, including on the priority theme of nuclear disarmament.

As a State Member of the United Nations and a State party to numerous treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

Ecuador is particularly pleased that the Open-ended Working Group on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament was able to agree by consensus, in June 2017, on the recommendations relating to the objectives and agenda of that session, which clearly indicates that multilateralism can and should be the fundamental principle underpinning disarmament work. It also expresses its satisfaction that, in April 2017, after almost two decades of no agreement, the Disarmament Commission managed to agree on recommendations concerning one of the items on its agenda: confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

Ecuador considers that these actions and others taken by the General Assembly are very positive as they have reaffirmed, in an international environment marked by the unilateral actions of certain countries, the need to promote multilateralism as the principle mechanism for guaranteeing world peace and security.

As a defender and promoter of international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, Ecuador supports all actions designed to prevent conflict and also supports the international instruments that will bring about the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, it is opposed to an arms race in outer space.

Ecuador believes that international meetings and summits on issues of universal concern, such as those related to nuclear security, should be open to all States on an equal footing, in line with the principle of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]
[15 May 2018]

El Salvador, a founding country of the United Nations firmly committed to international peace and security as established in its Charter, recognizes the importance of promoting multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and maintains its strong determination to do so with a view to working jointly, effectively and constructively with all countries at the global level to fulfil our international commitments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation through consensus, multilateral negotiations and concrete decisions, in accordance with the principles of verification, irreversibility and transparency, in order to achieve progress towards the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Accordingly, El Salvador is committed to working tirelessly for disarmament and channels its efforts into various regional and international forums and organizations to support actions aimed at strengthening the general disarmament and non-proliferation regime and renewing the commitment of the international community to achieving progress towards the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction, thereby raising awareness of the humanitarian consequences and disasters that could result from the use of such weapons and the threat posed by their mere presence in the world.

El Salvador reaffirms its right, and is cognizant of its obligation as a State that does not possess weapons of mass destruction and a State party to most international legal instruments in this field, to work tirelessly for general disarmament and

non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to support all efforts made through the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and other multilateral forums, bearing in mind that multilateralism is the only way to ensure effective measures to that end.

El Salvador is fully confident that through multilateral forums and with the support of countries that share the same desire to achieve a world free of weapons of mass destruction, it will be possible to develop initiatives and projects towards the complete and irreversible elimination of such weapons.

Georgia

[Original: English]
[23 February 2018]

Georgia accords special attention to the field of non-proliferation and disarmament. Georgia affirms that nuclear non-proliferation, continued progress in nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy are vital and impose responsibilities on all States. It stresses the fundamental responsibility of States, consistent with their respective national and international obligations, to maintain the effective security of all weapons of mass destruction, including weapons of mass destruction materials, and to prevent non-State actors from acquiring such materials and obtaining information or technology required to use them for malicious purposes.

Georgia recognizes the importance of multilateral instruments that address disarmament and non-proliferation and urges all States:

To accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

- To take urgent action to end the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- To support efforts to advance disarmament globally;
- To maintain a moratorium on nuclear test explosions pending entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to call upon States to sign and ratify the treaty;
- To work with all States towards the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in order to prevent proliferation and advance disarmament.

Lebanon

[Original: Arabic]
[5 May 2018]

Army Command wishes to state the following:

Lebanon supports taking effective measures to address threats to international peace and security arising from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It supports conventions on disarmament and arms control that are concluded by multilateral negotiations in which a large number of countries, regardless of their size and power, participate, with a view to achieving complete nuclear disarmament under strict international controls. Lebanon believes that promoting multilateralism is essential to advancing negotiations and developing more comprehensive global

standards in that regard. It reiterates that it is committed to multilateral cooperation, because that is an important means of pursuing and achieving common objectives in disarmament and non-proliferation. Meanwhile, the Israeli enemy maintains a massive arsenal of weapons of mass destruction that constitutes a direct threat not only to Lebanon, but to all States in the region, as well as to international peace and security.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[9 May 2018]

Mexico has historically been an advocate of multilateralism as the most effective way to address international challenges, and an actor convinced that the United Nations has the capacity to bring about peace and security. Mexico believes that the peaceful settlement of disputes is a point on which our interests and principles converge with a view to reaching agreements and forging strategies to address the challenges in areas as diverse as international security, development policy, climate change, human rights and the progressive development of international law.

Accordingly, on various occasions, Mexico, along with other States, has promoted multilateral actions to bolster disarmament and non-proliferation, thus confirming the country's conviction that multilateralism is the way to foster cooperation and friendly relations among States and thereby strengthen international peace and security.

Mexico promotes the full implementation, universality and entry into force of the international instruments on the elimination of chemical and biological weapons, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing and the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Mexico will continue to submit draft resolutions to the First Committee of the General Assembly, either individually or with other like-minded countries, with a view to achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mexico participated actively and decisively in the conference to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on 7 July 2017, which it views as consistent with the obligation contained in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, thereby contributing to its implementation.

Mexico continues to attach great importance to the strengthening of the regime established by Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) as well as its effective implementation.

Mexico recognizes the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency toward the peaceful use of nuclear energy and non-proliferation, in particular the safeguards system and the physical protection of nuclear material, and of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization with regard to the non-proliferation regime.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[5 May 2018]

Portugal believes that multilateralism is the most efficient way to attain the objective of maintaining peace and security at an international level, through disarmament and non-proliferation. On this issue, Portugal is party to the most

relevant treaties and other international and regional mechanisms regarding the prevention and elimination of threats posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Portugal also cooperates with international organizations that work in those areas.

Among the mechanisms mentioned above, we note the following: the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare; the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its protocols (including amendments); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on Cluster Munitions; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction; the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; the Convention on Nuclear Safety; and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendment. Portugal is party to all these instruments.

Portugal also participates in the following export control regimes: the Missile Technology Control Regime; the Australia Group; the Nuclear Suppliers Group; the Zangger Committee; and the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

Portugal has participated in outreach activities that aim to promote the universalization of the main treaties and other legal instruments on disarmament and non-proliferation, especially with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, and through formal and informal contacts and initiatives such as seminars, workshops and meetings.

Following its efforts in the area of disarmament at a multilateral level, Portugal was among the first 50 States to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, which is the first disarmament legal instrument to be adopted by the United Nations in the past decade.

Concerning nuclear disarmament, the risk posed by those countries that possess and seek to develop nuclear weapons has been recognized, especially in regions that are politically and socially instable, which pose a greater threat potential.

With regard to nuclear disarmament, Portugal defends the full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, always considering the importance of the existence of confidence building measures among nuclear and non-nuclear States.

Portugal also hopes that the Conference on Disarmament adopts, as soon as possible, a programme of work that supports the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. To that end, Portugal highlights the importance of the implementation of the 2010 action plan for nuclear disarmament, in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and believes that the effective implementation of the action plan should include bringing an end to the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament. Portugal has also signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and has proceeded with outreach activities regarding its universalization.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[5 May 2018]

- Qatar is strongly committed to the promoting multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation. In that connection, it should be noted that multilateralism is a key negotiating tool for achieving a wide range of goals. Qatar has acceded to all the relevant treaties, namely, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Qatar is a very active participant in relevant conferences, forums and meetings, and it is a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. Qatar reiterates that both total disarmament and non-proliferation are of vital importance.
- Qatar believes that it is important to move towards arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament on the basis of universality, multilateralism, non-discrimination and transparency, with a view to achieving comprehensive and complete disarmament under strict international control. Doing so would ensure the international validity of negotiations in that regard.
- Qatar calls for the development of disarmament and non-proliferation strategies and hopes that the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will be successful. Qatar also calls for the expeditious entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, because it will help to strengthen international peace and security.
- Qatar affirms the need to strengthen and revitalize the Conference on Disarmament, which is the sole multilateral negotiation forum. It participates in the meetings of the Conference as an observer and is seeking to become a permanent member.
- Qatar believes in the role that international and civil society organizations play in disarmament and non-proliferation, and the relevant Qatari bodies participate in the meetings of those organizations.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[15 May 2018]

Multilateral international cooperation in the area of arms control and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is an efficient instrument to prevent and eliminate the threats posed by the spread of arms and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

For this reason, Ukraine is a party to a number of international treaties and conventions: the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction; the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and other international instruments aimed at contributing to international security and global peace.

Ukraine also participates in the Proliferation Security Initiative and all the international export control regimes; the Missile Technology Control Regime; the Australia Group; the Nuclear Suppliers Group; the Zangger Committee; and the

Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

To comply with the obligations arising from its membership in the international treaties and organizations, Ukraine has developed the relevant legal basis and established State control over international transfers of goods intended for military purposes and goods and technologies that could be used for the creation of weapons of mass destruction.

Owing to its participation in the above-mentioned international institutions, Ukraine has the potential to anticipate risks of non-authorized use of goods intended for international transfers and to prevent them by consulting with States members of the export control regimes and exchanging information on risks related to transfers.